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September 8, 1994

Dear Colleague,

Rev Bayona

Never let it be said that the age old advice about learning new things from patients is not true anymore. In the course of our careers, we have already learned from one of our patients that the diagnosis or designation of an HIV-positive stage begins a journey that few patients are completely well equipped to handle. Support of family and trained professionals is a key factor in every stage of this disease including maybe most importantly the initial few months after the diagnosis is made.

As you are aware both scientifically and anecdotally, the outlook of a patient on his/her disease process and the behaviors adopted early on can effect their outcome and quality of life. Fortunately in this city, we have a superb center for AIDS research and treatment at UAB and several organizations such as Birmingham AIDS Outreach that are providing excellent services to HIV-positive and AIDS patients. However, as you are well aware, the numbers of individuals effected continues to grow and more services are needed.

In an effort to meet the needs of one group of patients, namely the newly diagnosed healthy HIV-positive population, an open patient discussion group is being formed in the city of Birmingham. With no intentions to supplant current services or other groups, the purpose of this group, called "Let's Live", is to be an entry or starting point for individuals who are newly diagnosed or who are considered healthy living with HIV. Translating the early emotions of futility and fatality into hope and vitality is the central core of the group's purpose. This group will be led by Dr. George James, who is a licensed counselor with Grayson and Associates, and by a current patient of ours. We are in support of this concept and group and hope that you will do the same by referring any newly diagnosed or healthy HIV-positive patients to the group. I would ask that you share this information with other staff members such as social workers, etc. and enclosed you will find further information regarding the group. If you should have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Dr. George James at 591-5113 or Dr. Rodney Tucker at Eastern Internal Medicine, 838-3631.

After the cell counts are obtained and the immunizations given, we ask that you make a referral to "Let's Live" as your next step in the health care plan of your patient. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Rodney Tucker, M.D.

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Eastern Internal Medicine
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(205) 591-5113

George C. James, Ph.D.
Grayson and Associates
Montclair Office



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"LET'S LIVE"

A (No-Fee) Support Group For All Healthy HIV+ Individuals

*TUESDAY'S
5:30-7:00 P.M.*

956 MONTCLAIR ROAD, SUITE 112

■ *Led by:*

*George C. James, Ph.D.
Grayson & Associates
Montclair Office*

For Details Call 939-0017

Discretion and anonymity assured. All calls answered by HIV+Individuals

JOIE DE VIVRE
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
AND

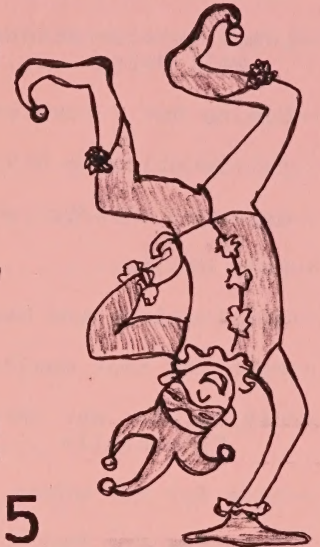
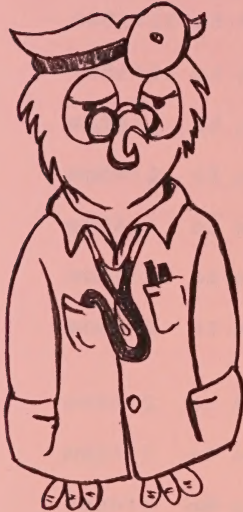
DR. WISE McCHURCH

SAY

"Don't Be A Fool"

be there for the

HEALTH FAIR
APRIL 1, 1995



FEATURING
SEMINARS AND EXHIBITS
ON

CANCER, SAFE SEX, HIV/AIDS, NUTRITION
GLUCOSE MONITORING, SICKLE CELL TESTS
ETC.

333 E. CHIMES STREET
9:00 a.m. til 4:30 p.m.
DOOR PRIZES, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT

LIFE SAVING INFORMATION

SEMINARS

APRIL 1, 1995

TIMES

- Facts and Myths About Nutrition.....9:30am to 10:15am
- Love and Commitment in Same Sex Relationships.....9:30am to 10:15am
- Male Cancer.....9:30am to 10:15am
- Humor and Your Health.....10:30am to 11:15am
- Legal Considerations for Your Health and
Well Being.....10:30am to 11:15am
- Coming Out - Joys and Traumas.....10:30am to 11:15am
- Introduction to HIV/AIDS..... 1:00pm to 1:45pm
- Advanced AIDS/Current Trends and Research.....1:00pm to 1:45pm
- Holy Unions.....1:00pm to 1:45pm
- Spirituality and Health.....2:00pm to 2:45pm
- Pets and Your Health.....2:00pm to 2:45pm
- Making Your Way Through the Health System
Financially.....2:00PM to 2:45pm
- Safe Sex For Women.....3:00pm to 3:45pm
- Safe Sex For Men.....3:00pm to 3:45pm

EXHIBITS

- | | |
|--|---|
| --Hibiscus Bookstore | --AA |
| --LAMBDA | --Substance Abuse |
| --Resthaven Gardens | --Test Your Mental Health |
| --Bennett and Bennett Accounting | --Dental Care |
| --Friends For Life | --Leinweber & Associates |
| --Connections Center for
Therapeutic Massage | --One Call Health Systems |
| --Joie de Vivre Metropolitan
Community Church | --Eye Care |
| --Odenweller/Drozдов
Chiropractic Clinic | --Blood Pressure/
Glucose Monitoring |
| --OLOL Immunological Support Group | --Anonymous HIV Testing |
| --Good Time Tours Travel Agency | --PFLAG |

****Jambalaya/Hot Dogs/Popcorn/Nachos/Refresments****

****Entertainment by STEPHANIE HEBERT AND BEAUX JOHNSTON****



Red Ribbon Reflections

AIDS Education and Ministry Project

Involving Alabama in compassion, education, and ministry

June/July, 1995

Educational program becomes more flexible and mobile

GRACE program changes to first Friday

by Malcolm Marler

GR.A.C.E. (*Giving & Receiving AIDS Compassionate Education*) began in June '94 as a first step for persons in the community to learn about HIV/AIDS and how to make a difference in the AIDS epidemic. Approximately 450 persons have attended the two hour program that includes: 1) *facts* about HIV/AIDS presented by a member of the 1917 Clinic medical staff; 2) *faces* in the crowd, a person sharing his or her story about what it is like to live with HIV disease; and 3) a *faith* response, how individuals and congregations can respond compassionately.

Persons have responded to GRACE in significant ways by creating AIDS Care Teams, offering educational programs, and through volunteering.

Beginning June 2, GRACE will be offered at the UAB 1917 Clinic on

the first Friday of each month from 9-11, rather than every Friday. Simply call 934-1917 to make a reservation. This change will allow us to do several new things.

1. GRACE can now go to congregations, businesses, schools, staff meetings, or community groups.

In other words, we are taking GRACE "on the road." This program will be offered in 60, 90, or 120 minute formats and can be adapted for the needs of various audiences. The plan is to train "GRACE Teams" that will consist of a knowledgeable AIDS educator, a person living with HIV/AIDS, and someone who can address practical ways to help.

2. GRACE can also be scheduled for groups of 12-50 who want to come to the clinic at times other than the first Friday.

Youth groups, clergy groups, classes from schools, and business or civic groups are just some of the possibilities. An AIDS Outpatient Clinic is an ideal place to do HIV/AIDS education and can now be scheduled for weekdays, evenings, and weekends.

3. Finally, this change will allow us to begin the next major initiative in the AIDS Education and Ministry Project--Preventive Educational Training.

Our plan is to identify the latest and best HIV/AIDS preventive educational programs for congregations, businesses,

and schools.

One of the ways I will begin is by participating in the *HIV Prevention--Community Planning Group*. This group will include representatives from: the Public Health Department, AIDS Service Organizations, Family and Children Services, Community Health Organizations, NAACP, Mayor's office, the religious community, and many more. We must find ways to work together as a community to enable congregations to play a significant role in preventing HIV disease.

One of the major purposes of the Preventive Educational Training will be to "train the trainers." These trainers will be parents, congregational educators, business leaders, and teachers.

In the meantime, we will press on toward the goal of having fifty AIDS Care Teams in 1995. By the end of June we will be half way there. We have also started developing AIDS Care Teams throughout the state (Florence, Jasper, Huntsville, Montevallo, and Tuscaloosa) so that anyone affected by HIV disease can have access to an extended family if they need or want one.

Malcolm Marler is the Director of the AIDS Education and Ministry Project at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) 1917 Clinic.

Red Ribbon Reflections

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Joe Elmore
AIDS Care Teams Coordinator

POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to Red Ribbon Reflections, UAB 1917 Clinic, 908 South 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35294-2050.

Mailing list additions/changes: Please send name, address, and phone numbers to the above address. Contributions are appreciated.



Alabama AIDS Resource Highlight

"Family Pairs" is making a difference in the AIDS epidemic in Alabama

In Alabama, as in the rest of the Nation, women account for a rising percentage of AIDS cases, increasing from 15% in 1993 to 17% in 1994, according to the Alabama Department of Public Health. This increase also affects children who will see their parents become ill and die.

The Family Pairs program was developed as a pilot project in January, 1994, to provide a support network and continuum of care in helping HIV-positive parents make permanent plans for their children. The program's primary goal is to keep families together as long as possible.

A Family Pair is a family, individual, or relative who is paired with an HIV-affected family. The Family

Pair has been recruited, screened and trained to provide varying degrees of support to the HIV-affected family. Support can include: friendship, providing transportation, respite or temporary foster care. In some cases, the family pair may become an adoptive resource for the child.

Applications are currently being accepted from individuals and families who are interested in becoming a "Family Pair." Although all are needed, volunteers from the African-American community are especially desired.

For more information on volunteering for or receiving services from the program, please contact the Children's Aid Society at (205) 251-7148 in Birmingham.



Book Review

by Joe Openshaw

Is The Homosexual My Neighbor? by Letha Dawson Scanzoni and Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, Harper Collins, 1994.

This book approaches the subject of homosexuality and religion in a compassionate and non-judgmental way.

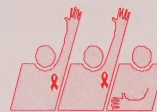
The debate over biblical translation and interpretation is only a small part

of this book. While persuasive in their comments about specific biblical texts, these authors expand their focus and deal with many aspects of homosexuality, including chapters on stereotyping, scientific research, homophobia, and moral growth.

I would recommend Is The Homosexual My Neighbor for anyone interested in looking at sexual diversity from a scientific, psychological, and biblical perspective.

Joe Openshaw is coordinator of the AIDS Care Team of Riverchase United Methodist Church in Birmingham.

Volunteer Training June 10, July 8



Community AIDS Basic Training and Education is held on the second

Saturday of each month (8:30-5:00 p.m.). Upon the completion of a training event, individuals are then eligible to apply to volunteer through any of the sponsoring AIDS organizations, including AIDS Care Teams.

Basic Training

Date: Saturday, June 10, 1995
Time: 8:00 registration, 8:30-5pm
Where: First Presbyterian Church, 2100 4th Avenue North, Birmingham (please note location)
Cost: \$10 (includes refreshments, lunch & materials)

Specialty Workshops at 2:45 p.m.

- AIDS Care Team Orientation
- Support for ACT Leaders
- Training for Outreach Education
- How to Talk to Your Children and Community About AIDS.

Reservations: Sponsoring groups
A Baby's Place of AL.....939-1514
AIDS Task Force.....592-2437
AIDS in Minorities.....323-7949
B'ham AIDS Outreach.....322-4197
UAB 1917 Clinic.....934-1917

Advanced Training: Also offered on the same day in June are the following areas:

- Buddy Training--BAO
- Direct Care Training--A Baby's Place
- Housing Volunteers--ATFA

Looking Ahead--Next Training

Date: Saturday, July 8, 1995
Where: Cathedral Church of the Advent Episcopal, 5th Ave. & 20th Street North, B'ham, new location for July, Aug., Sept.

Excerpts from one mother's journal

by Brenda Parker



Our son, Keith, thought he had a sinus infection--instead he had toxoplasmosis and went into a coma. The neurologist said to plan his funeral because he wouldn't live through the weekend.

Saturday night we received a call at 3:00 a.m. from his cousin who said, "I have someone who wants to talk to you." Keith got on the phone and said, "Hi Mom." I felt he was given back to us again.....

He came home, went walking, got phlebitis, hospital, then home and pneumonia, then hospital. The world is definitely divided into two parts--the world of the sick and the world of the well.....

Keith's insurance that he had been paying on for nine years was cancelled. He couldn't find a lawyer to represent him even though his twin brother was a lawyer who went to school here and we knew many lawyers.....

We are now constantly trying to get assistance for him in the oceans of bureaucracy.....

All holidays are especially poignant. Mother's Day also was the day Keith and his twin brother were born.

Big problem--what to tell people. People would go ballistic if you told them. If you didn't, you were lying. We never had an answer.....

The world for Keith and me was suspended for Christmas, 1991 (which I knew would be his last). New Year's Day--It was a preor-

dained blessing not to know the future. We now listen for his cough as if he were a child again.....

In June his brother was to be married and Keith just wanted to wear his tux so he could be in the family pictures, but that was not to be--instead they said he might not live through the day of the marriage we had been planning for a year. He did leave the hospital.....

He had tubes for a month all over his body and every invasive procedure they could possibly think of to save him. I couldn't do what those wonderful nurses do on the sixth floor at UAB. They are truly angels of mercy.....

Our big goal now was to go on one last family vacation to the beach. Keith loved the beach, sunny or stormy. The day we were to leave Keith woke up blind in one eye and seeing floaters in the other. It was Friday and there were no doctors. We were in denial that he would ever go blind, I suppose, because this was a big shock to all of us. Keith was a prolific writer and artist, and his eyes were windows to the world for other people, as well as himself.....

I found a support group two weeks before Keith died. There were nine people there. I couldn't believe there were human beings there who had survived this or were surviving this insidious wasting away of a body.....

We had a "Keith Party" on the first anniversary of his death. We had a birthday cake to celebrate the first

year of his new life. We told "Keith stories"--he was always so funny. I'm sure he was there with us. He so loved parties. I miss going to his parties.....

How have I made it thus far? My faith in a Just God who will one day show me all the whys. God is already doing this for I am a completely different person. I also feel I couldn't have made it thus far without my devoted family and my constant friends, and my overwhelming desire to make a difference in the march against AIDS!

Ken and Brenda Parker's son, Keith, died on September 3, 1992. On April 6, 1995, the Parkers participated in an AIDS education program in their own congregation and told their story to many of their friends and fellow church members for the first time.

Supporting the AIDS Education and Ministry Project

Your tax-deductible contribution helps with: Red Ribbon Reflections, AIDS Care Team training and support, purchase of resources for our loaning library, and administrative costs of the Project. Thank you for your help.

Make checks payable to:

UAB 1917 Clinic, for The AIDS Ed. & Ministry Project. Mail to Malcolm Marler, UAB 1917 Clinic, 908 S. 20th Street, Birmingham, AL 35294-2050.

AIDS Care Team Update



by Joe Elmore

Congregations, university student groups, denominational staffs, and businesses are forming AIDS Care Teams (ACT) throughout Alabama. At this time, we have twenty-four teams as we come upon the mid-point of the year with almost that many in process of formation.

Below is a list of current teams. All teams are in greater Birmingham unless otherwise noted.

Birmingham Baptist Association Staff
Baptist Church of the Covenant
Canterbury United Methodist
Cathedral Church of the Advent
Dawson Memorial Baptist
Edgemont United Methodist (Florence)
First Presbyterian
Highlands United Methodist
Holy Spirit Catholic (Tuscaloosa)
New Prospect Baptist (Jasper)
Riverchase United Methodist
St. Francis Episcopal
St. John's United Methodist
St. Mary's Episcopal
St. Stephen's Catholic
Samford University Students
Shades Valley Lutheran
Southside Baptist
Temple Emanu-El

Trinity United Methodist
UAB 1917 Clinic
University Baptist (Montevallo)
Vestavia Hills Baptist
Vestavia Hills United Methodist

Individuals may be placed on existing

teams after completing the Basic Training on the second Saturday of the month. Call me or Malcolm Marler if you are interested in ACT information.

Joe Elmore is the coordinator of AIDS Care Teams for the AIDS Education and Ministry Project.

HIV/AIDS in Alabama

The latest statistics published by the HIV/AIDS Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health indicates that HIV disease continues to increase throughout the state. In the *HIV/AIDS Update* Spring newsletter, 554 new cases of AIDS were reported in 1994, bringing the total to 2,992 cases since 1982.

These numbers are alarming when one considers that 18.5% of all the AIDS cases in Alabama since 1982 were diagnosed in this past year, 1994. As of April 7, '95, the total cases climbed to 3,164.

The trend of more women becoming infected with HIV continued with the ratio of male-to-female AIDS cases

in 1994 at 5.1 to 1 (compared to 5.6 to 1 in '93, 5.9 to 1 in '92.). AIDS is now the *third* leading cause of death (a change from fifth) for 25-44 year olds in Alabama, while on the national level it is the number one cause of death for that age group.

In addition to AIDS diagnoses, an additional 550 Alabamians were reported as HIV positive in 1994. A conservative estimate is that 7-10,000 persons in Alabama now have HIV, the virus the causes AIDS.

If you would like to receive the *Alabama HIV/AIDS Update* quarterly newsletter from the AL Dept. of Public Health, contact Dechelle Young, (334) 613-5357 in Montgomery to be placed on the mailing list.



Red Ribbon Reflections

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